

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106180

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PORC, SF, WA

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA: FOLLOW-UP TO SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF
CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL

REF: CAPE TOWN 818

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1. SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL
CREATES NEW SITUATION IN WHICH CONTACT GROUP MUST MOVE
QUICKLY TO PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON SWAPO IN AN EFFORT TO
SECURE ITS ACCEPTANCE, OR AT A MINIMUM,ITS ACQUIESCENCE
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE WE CAN
MAKE CONVINCING CASE WITH THE KEY AFRICAN STATES IN FAVOR
OF RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTACT GROUP

PROPOSAL. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICANS, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE DO NOT TREAT SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE AS A POTENTIAL DRAWBACK AND SOMETHING WHICH WE MUST EXPLAIN AWAY, IN ORDER TO MEET THE LIKELY AFRICAN REACTION THAT ANYTHING SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTS IS BOUND TO BE NO GOOD.

2. AS THE FIRST STEP IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT CONTACT GROUP SHOULD AGREE TO COORDINATED DEMARCHES TO THE FRONTLINE STATES AND NIGERIA AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL IN CAPITALS AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS PRESENT IN NEW YORK. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT ZAMBIAN, TANZANIAN AND NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE NOW

IN NEW YORK. IN CASE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, DEMARCHES SHOULD BE TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF UN MISSIONS.) USUN SHOULD SEEK RAPID CONTACT GROUP APPROVAL OF DEMARCHE ALONG LINES IN PARA 3 BELOW. WE WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS OF OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES ON THESE POINTS AND ON OUR TACTICS GENERALLY WITH AFRICANS. TO EXPEDITE CLEARANCE PROCESS, EMBASSIES IN CONTACT GROUP CAPITALS SHOULD PROVIDE COPY OF PROPOSED TALKING POINTS TO FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

3. DRAFT TALKING POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S
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PROPOSAL REPRESENTS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN OUR EFFORT TO SECURE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE PREPARED TO READ SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE AS BEING SUFFICIENT AND REQUIRING NO CHANGE IN THE PROPOSAL PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

B) YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE INTENSE EFFORT, OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR, WHICH THE CONTACT GROUP UNDERTOOK IN DEVELOPING THE PROPOSAL. IN THIS PROCESS, OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WERE CONSULTED WIDELY. MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP BENEFITTED ESPECIALLY FROM THE ADVICE, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AND NIGERIA.

C) WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE, THE WAY IS OPEN TO ACHIEVEMENT OF NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. TO PASS IT UP WOULD MEAN MISSING AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY WITH IMPLICATIONS WHICH GO FAR BEYOND NAMIBIA ITSELF. THE NEXT MOVE, ACCORDINGLY, IS SWAPO'S AND AFRICA'S.

D) THIS IS NOT THE POINT AT WHICH WE NEED DISCUSS THE

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ITS DETAILS AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PROPOSAL FALLS SHORT OF WHAT EITHER SOUTH AFRICA OR SWAPO WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED TO BE IDEAL. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROPOSAL IS MANIFESTLY FAIR AND PRESCRIBES A PROCESS WHICH WILL ASSURE A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. THE UNITED NATIONS WILL PLAY A UNIQUE ROLE IN THIS POLITICAL PROCESS AND CAN BE RELIED UPON TO MANAGE THE TRANSITION WITH IMPARTIALITY AND WITH FIDELITY TO ITS ROLE AS TRUSTEE FOR NAMIBIA.

E) THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS OF THE FIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, IN CONSULTATION WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST DIFFICULT
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POLITICAL PROBLEMS DEMONSTRATES OUR READINESS TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. AFRICAN ENDORSEMENT OF THIS PROPOSAL INEVITABLY WILL HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ABILITY OF THE WEST TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN DEALING WITH THE FURTHER PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD EXPECT FRONT LINE AND NIGERIAN SUPPORT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY DEFINITIVE WORD, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, FROM SWAPO.

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